

SENATE BILL NO.836

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 18, 2007

POSITIVES FOR SACRED HEART SCHOOL (NON-PUBLIC SCHOOLS)

- Allows the Non-Public School to offer programs that may not be possible due to the size of the school, and budget restraints. This allows the Non-Public School Students to receive the minimum number or even exceed the number of hours in all the ancillary programs. This has allowed the students to be taught by qualified teachers in all academic areas.
- Gave planning and preparation time for our general education teachers to assure planning of strong academics for the students.
- Allowed the Non-Public students to have equitable ancillary courses, including; art, music, Physical Education, Computers, Research, and Foreign Language.
- Provided a resource for collaboration of ideas that benefit both the students and the staff team. As previously mentioned the collaboration of the ideas truly benefits the students and the staff in the Public and Non-Public Schools. This allows us to share academics, professional development, business, and equipment.
- The collaboration opened an avenue for a relationship for the Non-Public School families to enter the Public School upon completion of their Sacred Heart School curriculum. Exposure of the students to all the offerings of the ancillary programs makes for a more equitable educational experience for the students, thus a well rounded child.

AREAS OF CONCERN

- Lack of cooperation between the Public and Non-Public schools. Unfortunately not all Public Schools see the benefits of working together for the betterment of all students.

- Inability to get documents in writing. For example, when it became clear that a collaborative effort could not be reached we asked for a letter stating that and we were denied. We then asked for a letter of Agreement with the adjacent district and we were denied. Finally, we asked for a letter stating we were denied a Letter of Agreement and again we were denied.
- Equitable service for all children. We want to assure that all students have been given the same opportunity.
- Many issues factor in the districts acceptance or denial of the collaborative programs. i.e. the Districts financial status, program offerings, subjective opinions as to the acceptance of Non-Public Schools and the contributions they make, etc. This restricts the academic growth of the students who attend the Public and Non-public schools.
- Disruption of continuity of the academics for the students. Ability to maintain a Shared Time academic program allows the Public School to maintain good ancillary programs for the students in the Public School. This helps to guarantee music, art, gym, computers, etc. If one year there is an agreement and the next year there is a refusal of an agreement this takes away from the strong ancillary programs for students and the financial stability of the any school.

SCHEDULE

- Collaborate in February and make the request by March 1st. The response from the Public School can then be made on or before May 1st.
- The Public School and the Non-Public School would need to continually collaborate and cooperate; which reinforces the importance of the Public and Non-Public Schools working together for a common goal of the betterment of all students.